

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/689,888

Applicant(s)

LEWIS ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to claims filed 21 October 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2121

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons For Allowance

1. Claims 1-7 are allowed.
2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fails to teach the claimed invention of a learning system as claimed by Applicant. Specifically, Applicant teaches the updating of the state representation for the hypothetical learning task using a default target value for the training instance.

The closest prior art of Thaler (U.S. Patent Number 5,659,666; dated 19 August 2004; class 706; subclass 016) teaches communicating accumulated state information between tasks in a learning system, but fails to teach or suggest the updating of the state representation for the hypothetical learning task using a default target value for the training instance. To the extent that this feature is not found in the prior art cited by Examiner, the present case is held allowable over the art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - A. Thaler (U.S. Patent Number 5,659,666; dated 19 August 1997; case 706; subclass 016) discloses a device for the autonomous generation of useful information.
 - B. Thaler (U.S. Patent Number 6,356,884 B1; dated 12 March 2002; case 706; subclass 016) discloses a device for the autonomous generation of useful information.
 - C. Hoffberg et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,418,424 B1; dated 09 July 2002; case 706; subclass 021) discloses an ergonomic Man-Machine interface incorporating adaptive pattern recognition based control.
 - D. Lewis, David D. et al, Training Algorithms for Linear Text Classifiers, Proceedings of the 19th Annual International ACM SIGR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval, August 1996, pp. 298-306.
 - E. Baxter, R.S., Supervised Adaptive Resonance Networks, proceedings of the Conference on Analysis of Neural Network Applications, May 1991, pp. 123-137.

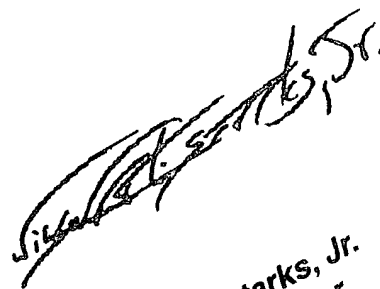
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Wilbert L. Starks, Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 305-0027.

Alternatively, inquiries may be directed to the following:

S. P. E. Anthony Knight	(703) 308-3179
After-final (FAX)	(703) 746-7238
Official (FAX)	(703) 746-7239
Non-Official/Draft (FAX)	(703) 746-7240

WLS

22 August 2004



Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit - 2121